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***Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses Applauds Rep. Brinkman
on the Introduction of Legislation that will Expand Ohioans' Access to
Vital Health Care Services***

Columbus, Ohio March 28, 2019 – The Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses (OAAPN) applauds Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Mt. Lookout) for introducing HB177, the Better Access, Better Care Act. HB177 will serve to expand access to vital health care services for Ohioans across the state by eliminating the requirement that advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) sign a contract or “standard care arrangement” (SCA) with physicians in order to practice in Ohio. This amounts to little more than a fee APRNs pay to a physician in order to practice. Far from collaboration, this contract requires APRNs to provide a subset of their charts to physicians for review, while no actual collaboration regarding patient care occurs between the contracted physicians and APRNs. This outdated regulation prevents patients from full and direct access to APRN care where and when they need it most.

“We applaud Rep. Brinkman for addressing the critical need of all Ohioans to gain access to health care in communities across Ohio. Today, nearly 1.5 million Ohioans lack necessary access to vital primary care services. In fact, the federal government has designated 159 health care provider shortage areas across the state, meaning that just 55% of patient need is met,” said Joscelyn Greaves, President of the Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses.

There are over 16,000 advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) licensed to practice in Ohio including nurse practitioners (NP), certified nurse specialists (CNS), certified nurse midwives (CNM) and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA). APRNs are licensed professionals who have post-graduate education (master’s or doctorate degree). Each has in-depth knowledge and training, accumulated skills and clinical training and experience. They are trained to diagnose illness, treat patients, order tests, prescribe medicines, deliver babies and/or administer anesthesia and do this in both primary and specialty care settings.

“We call on the Ohio Legislature to pass HB177, to ensure that Ohioans receive access to the care they need and deserve,” said Greaves. “The SCA limits the health care Ohio APRNs can provide while undermining needed access to high-quality, accessible care statewide. Ohio can and must do better.”

The Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses (OAAPN) is Ohio’s largest professional membership organization for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) including certified nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives and certified registered nurse anesthetists. It represents the interests of more than 16,000 licensed APRNs in Ohio, advancing health policy while promoting excellence in education and practice. For more information about Ohio’s APRNs, visit OAAPN.org.